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See page 28.

THE CURIOUS

ADVENTURES

OF

CINDERELLA:

OR,

THE HSTORY

OF A

Glass Slipper.

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THE

ADVENTURES

OF

CINDERELLA.

THERE was a gentleman of considerable property in the West of England, who, having lived happily many years in a married state, was at length deprived of his wife by the cruel hand of death. She left behind her a daughter of unparalleled goodness, and

sweetness of temper, which she inherited from her mother, whose virtuous conduct had endeared her to all who knew her.

Twelve months had hardly elaped after the death of his wife, however, when he again entered into wedlock. His second wife was the reverse of the first---she was the proudest and most haughty woman that could be conceived. By a former husband she had two daughters, who possessed all her follies and extravagances.

No sooner were the ceremonies of the wedding over, than the step-mother began

to throw aside the veil, and to appear in her true colours. She disliked the good qualities of this pretty girl, because they made the bad qualities of her own daughters appear the more odious. Accordingly she employed her in the meanest work of the house, such as churning butter, scouring the dishes, tables, &c. rubbing madam's chamber, and those of her daughters. She slept in a mean garret, upon a most wretched bed of straw, while her sisters lay in elegant rooms covered with fine carpets, and upon beds of the very newest fashion, where they had looking-glasses so

large that they might see themselves at their full length, from head to foot.

The poor girl bore all this very patiently, and dared not tell her father, from whom indeed she expected but little redress, his wife governing him so entirely. When she

had done her work, she used to sit in the chimney-corner,

among the cinders and ashes, which obtained for her the name of Cinderbreech; but the youngest sister, who was not so rude and uncivil as the eldest, called her Cinderella. Notwithstandingthemeanness of her apparel, however, she was much prettier than either of her sisters-in-law, though they were always dressed extremely rich.

It happened that the king's son gave a ball, and invited all persons of fashion to it. Of course our two young misses went to it, and they made a very grand figure among the quality. They were wonderfully busy in chusing out such

gowns, petticoats, and head dresses as might best become them. This was a new trouble to Cinderella, because she had to iron her sisters linen, and to plait their ruffles. They now talked of nothing else but how they should be dressed. "For my part." said the eldest, "I will wear my red velvet suit, with French trimming." "I think," said the youngest," "I shall only have my usual petticoat; but to make amends for that, I shall put on my gold-flowered gown, and my diamond stomacher, which is by no means an ordinary one." They sent for the best tire-woman in the neigh-

bourhood to make up their head-dresses, and to adjust their double pinners; and they had their red brushes and patches from Mademoiselle de la Poche.

Cinderella also was called up to be consulted in all these matters, for she had excellent notions, and always advised them for the best. They even accepted her offer to dress their heads. While she was doing this, they said to her, "Cinderella, would you not like to go to the ball?" ,'Ah! you only jeer me," said she, "it is not for such as me to go there." "Right," replied they, "the people would laugh

heartily to see a Cinderbreech at a ball." Cinderella was too wise to notice this sneer, and dressed them perfectly well. They were continually admiring themselves in the looking-glass, and to make their shapes slender broke about a dozen laces.

At length the happy hour arrived; they went to court, and Cinderella followed them with her eyes as far as she could see, and when she lost sight of them she began crying. Her godmother, who saw her in tears, asked her what was the matter?

"I wish I could---I wish I could---" her tears flowed in

such torrents that she was unable to proceed. Her godmother being a fairy, said to her, "Are you not desirous to go to the ball?" "Ye---ye---yes," cries Cinderella, with a great sigh. "Well;" said her godmother, "be but a good girl, and I will contrive a way for you to go." Then she took her into her chamber, and said to her, "Run into the garden, and bring me a pompion." Cinderella went immediately, but was at a loss to conceive how that could contribute to make her go to the ball. Her godmother now scooped out its inside, leaving nothing but the rind; she

then struck it with her wand, and the pompion instantly became a fine gilt coach. She then went to look into the mouse-trap, where there were four mice alive; then she ordered Cinderella to lift up the door of the trap, and giving each mouse a tap with her wand, they were turned into

fine dapple-grey horses. Being still in want of a coachman, "I will go and see," said Cinderella, "if there be a rat in the trap---if so, we must make him a coachman."

"Very well," replied her godmother, "go and look." Cinderella brought the trap to her, and in it there were three huge rats.

The fairy made choice of him who had the longest beard, and having touched him with her wand, he was turned into a jolly coachman, who had the smartest whiskers that eyes ever beheld. After that she said to her, "Go into the garden, and you will find

six lizards behind the watering-pot; bring them to me. She had no sooner done so, than her godmother turned them into six footmen, who instantly skipped up behind the coach, with gold and silver liveries, and seemed as if they had been used to it all their lives. The fairy then said to Cinderella, "You see here an equipage fit to go to the ball with; does it please you?" "O yes," said she, "but must I go in these dirty rags?" Her godmother then touched her with her wand, and her clothes were instantly changed into cloth of gold and silver, set with jewels. She then

gave her a pair of glass slippers, the prettiest in all the world.

Thus decked out, she got into her carriage, and her godmother desired her not to stay at the ball any longer than midnight; for if she did, her coach would be a pompion again, her horses mice, her coachman a rat, her footmen lizards, and her own clothes become just as they were before. She promised obedience to all these injunctions, and was then drove away almost unable to contain herself for joy.

The king's son being told that a great princess, whom

nobody knew was come, ran out to receive her; he handed her out of the carriage, and led her into the ball-room among the company. A profound silence now took place; the dancing was discontinued, and the violins ceased to play. Every one attentively contemplated the singular beauty of this unknown princess.--- After a short pause a confused whisper ensued, "Ha! how handsome she is! How very beautiful! Surely she is a goddess!" The king himself, old as he was, could not help ogling her, and telling the queen that it was a long time since he had seen such a lovely

creature. The ladies were all busied in considering her fine clothes and head-dress, and determined if possible to have something of a similar description against the next night. The king's son conducted her to the most honourable seat, and afterwards solicited and obtained her hand to dance with him.

The graceful manner of her steps excelled every thing the company had witnessed before. Though a cold collation was served up, the young prince did not eat a morsel, so eagerly did he gaze upon her. She sat down near her sisters, shewing them many

civilities, and presenting them with some of the oranges and citrons which the Prince had given her. They were not a little surprised at the attention she paid them, having no idea of who she was.

While Cinderella was thus amusing her sisters, she heard the clock strike three quarters past eleven; upon which she immediately made her obedience to the company, and hasted away as fast as possible. Having reached home, she ran to seek out her godmother, and after she had thanked her, said she heartily wished she might go the next night to the ball, because the

prince had desired her. While she was telling her godmother the adventures of the evening, her sisters knocked at the door, on which Cinderella ran to let them in.

"How long you have staid," said she, yawning and stretching herself as if she had just awaked out of her sleep. "If you had been at the ball," said one of her sisters, "you would not have been tired with it. The most beautiful princess that ever was beheld came there; I know not on what account, but she shewed us a thousand civilities, and gave us citrons and oranges." Cinderella affected great in-

difference at this relation; indeed, she asked the princess's name, but they told her they did not know it, and that the king's son was very uneasy on her account, and would give all the world to know where she was. Cinderella smiling said, she must then be very handsome indeed. "How happy have you been!" said she. "Can't I see her? dear Miss Charlotte, do be so kind as to lend me your yellow suit of clothes which you wear every day." "A pretty thing, indeed," returned Charlotte; "lend my clothes to a dirty Cinderbreech! Who'll be the fool then?" Cinderella ex-

pected this refusal, and was by no means sorry for it, for she would have been sadly confused if her sister had really lent her what she had asked for jestingly.

The next night the two sisters went to the ball, and so did Cinderella, only she was dressed more elegantly than before. The king's son received her as before with the greatest politeness; during the whole of the evening he never ceased his compliments and amorous speeches to her, so that she quite forgot her godmother's commands, and was alarmed by the clock striking twelve, when she thought it

was only eleven.---Immediately she fled with the utmost precipitation.

The prince followed, but could not overtake her. In

her hurry, she left one of her glass slippers, which the prince most carefully preserved. She reached home quite out of breath, without coach or foot-

men, in her old clothes, having nothing left of all her finery but one little glass slipper. The guards at the Palace gates were asked if they had seen a princess go out? To which they replied---No creature had gone out but a young person very meanly dressed, who had more the appearance of a poor country girl than a princess.

The two sisters having returned from the ball, Cinderella asked them if they had been well entertained, and if the fine lady had been there? They told her that she had, but that she hurried away immediately the clock had struck

twelve, and dropped one of her little glass slippers, the prettiest that ever was seen, which the king's son had taken up; that his whole attentions were fixed on her during the time of the ball, and that he was undoubtedly very much in love with her.

What they related was very true; for a few days after the prince caused to be proclaimed, by sound of trumpet, that any lady whom this slipper would fit he would be happy to make his bride.

The ladies about the court, anxious to obtain the honour of marrying a prince, flocked to the Palace to try on the

slipper---it fitted none of them properly. At length it was desired that the slipper might be sent to the house of the sisters, that they also might make trial: the slipper arrived---the two sisters tried, alas! in vain, and it was just on the point of being returned to the Palace, when Cinderella, who knew her slipper, said to them smiling, "Let me see---perhaps it will fit me."

Her sisters began to laugh at and banter her; but the gentleman who was commissioned to try on the slipper, seeing that Cinderella, though meanly dressed, was very

handsome, said---It was but just that she should try; and that his orders were to let any person that wished make one trial.

Cinderella accordingly sat down, and putting the slipper to her foot, found it went on very easy, and fitted her extremely well.

All those who were present expressed great surprise; but the astonishment of the sisters was still more excited when putting her hand into her pocket, she produced the other slipper, which she instantly put upon her foot!

Her godmother then came in, and touched Cinderella's

clothes with her wand, which made them richer and more magnificent than any of those which she had worn before when she had been to the prince's ball.

Her sisters now found her to be that beautiful lady whom they had taken for a princess at the ball. Her kindness to them while there, and the indignity they had offered her while in her father's house. now crouded on their minds, and they felt that shame which none but the guilty know, and none but the wicked feel.

They now humbled themselves to the dust, and even fell at her feet to beg pardon

for all the ill treatment they had made her undergo.

Cinderella desired them to rise up, and embracing them said, she forgave them with all her heart, and begged that they would bear her similar affection and love.

She was now conducted to the young prince, dressed as she was, and as he thought

her more charming than ever, the marriage ceremony immediately took place, and joy & festivity closed the happy scene.

Cinderella was not lsss good than beautiful; to her two sisters she gave apartments in the palace, and soon after obtained husbands for them who were Lords of the court.

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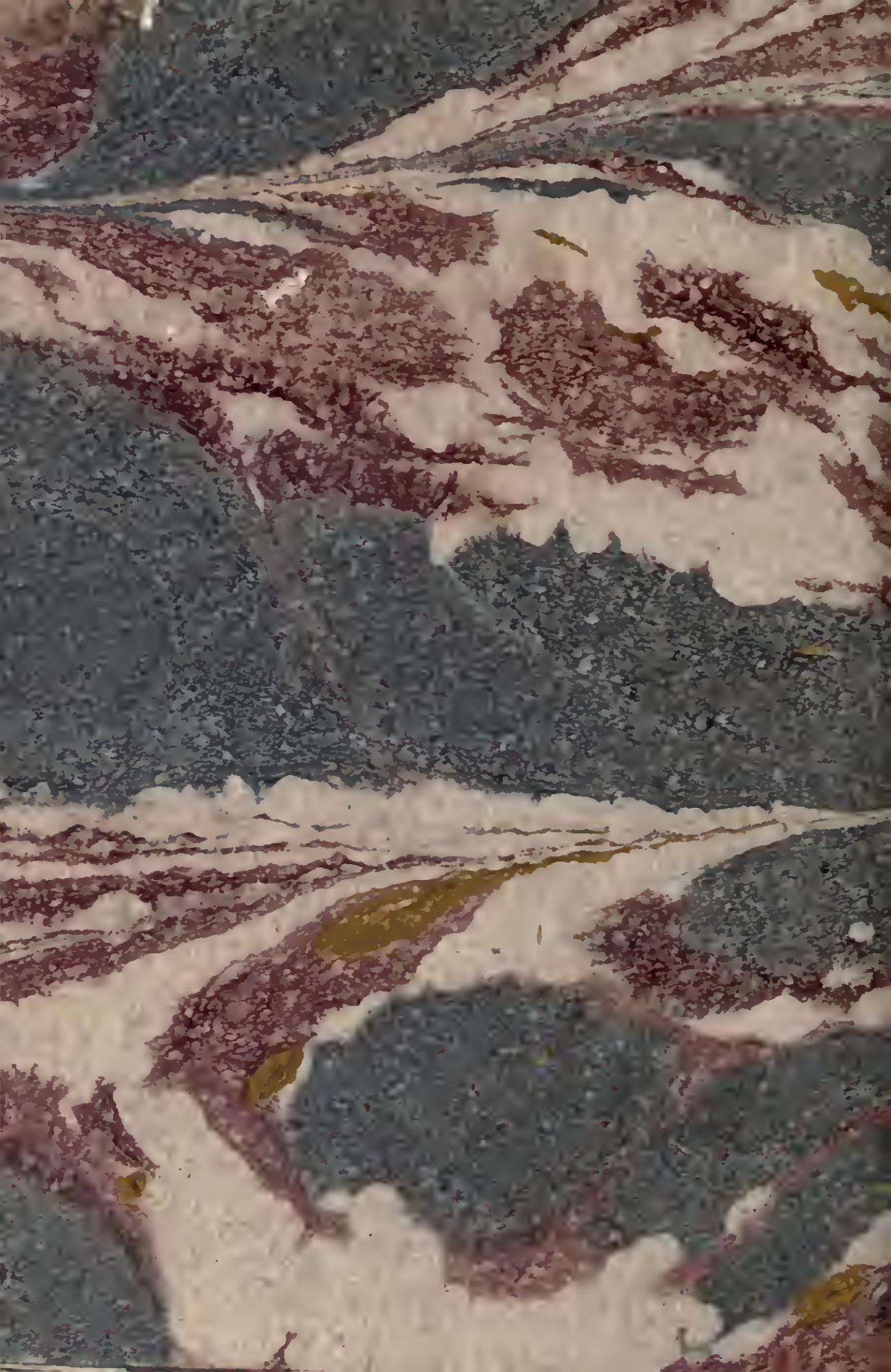
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